

# FACT SHEET

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#### **Newport Chemical Depot**

### **Newport:** safely disposing of secondary waste

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is responsible for safely destroying the U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons and agents. In Newport, Ind., workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility safely neutralized the stockpile of chemical agent VX that was stored at the Newport Chemical Depot for nearly 40 years. An important part of the work accomplished at Newport is managing secondary waste that is generated through chemical agent storage and disposal processes in a safe manner and in compliance with all applicable laws.



Secondary waste is any waste associated with conducting chemical agent storage or neutralization. Secondary waste includes items such as laboratory waste; personal protective equipment; cleaning materials; equipment parts from maintenance and repair activities

such as gaskets, hoses and charcoal filters and decontamination solution. This waste is designated like other industrial waste as either hazardous or non-hazardous. Waste designation is determined either by laboratory analysis or by where and how the material was used. An example of hazardous waste is equipment parts that have come into contact with liquid materials in the agent neutralization process system. An example of non-hazardous waste is the decontaminated empty steel containers previously used for agent storage.

## Safe treatment and proper management of secondary waste

The Newport team works closely with numerous external independent and government agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indiana Department



For more information, contact the Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (866) 300-9034 toll-free

or contact the

NECD Public Affairs Office
(765) 245-4475

or the
CMA Public Affairs Office
(800) 488-0648



Waste handlers add laboratory waste into a hazardous waste storage area.

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#### **Newport:** safely disposing of secondary waste (continued)

of Environmental Management (IDEM), to ensure the project adheres to the strict and closely regulated standards for treatment and disposal of its secondary waste. In addition, all agent-related depot operations were performed in a manner that produced the least amount of waste materials possible. Ensuring that waste management practices are conducted efficiently is a vital part of Newport operations.

Secondary waste generated by operations at Newport were identified and closely-regulated through the depot's operating and hazardous waste storage permit issued by IDEM. Storage conditions, time limits, handling and final disposal of all waste are detailed in these permits.

## Handling, treating and disposing of secondary waste

A number of secondary waste items are treated on site at Newport. Some secondary waste is transported to permitted treatment, storage and disposal facilities for further treatment and final disposal. The specific treatment and disposal method selected for secondary waste is based upon decades of research and experience.

Historically, off-site treatment and disposal has been a method used safely by CMA to treat and dispose of secondary waste. This method was recommended by the National Research Council.

Secondary waste that is shipped off site for treatment and/or disposal will be transported and disposed of safely in accordance with federal and state hazardous waste transport and treatment regulations and guidelines. Commercial



Environmental compliance specialist performs weekly inspections on secondary waste containers.

disposal facilities used by CMA have proven track records for safely and effectively working together to store, transport, treat and dispose of secondary waste while protecting the public and the environment. Only DOT-approved routes will be used for transport. As detailed in the Hazardous Materials Shipments report published by the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, more than 99.99 percent of all hazardous waste shipments in the United States occur without incident or accident. Trucks used to transport the secondary waste meet stringent DOT requirements and are operated by experienced and licensed hazardous waste transport operators.

The Newport team is committed to using safe and efficient processes to handle, treat, transport and dispose of secondary waste—safe for the workers, the public and the environment.